

Sam Katz.ca

OUR CITY OUR FUTURE

Ideas

Action

Support Our Future

October 19, 2006

Mr. Eric Glass
Chairman
Paramedic Association of Manitoba
2nd Floor – 1111 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg MB R3G 0S8

Dear Mr. Glass:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2006 regarding emergency medical services.

I have personally spoken to and met with dozens of paramedics from the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Services (WFPS) and I have expressed to every one of them my most sincere appreciation for the work they perform under challenging conditions to protect the health and safety of our citizens.

Furthermore, let me stress with the utmost importance the fact that every discussion I have had as Mayor regarding the WFPS has identified the absolute top priority as being public safety. All other matters are secondary in our WFPS discussions after public safety.

As evidence of the importance and priority that both myself and Council place upon public safety is the fact that the 2006 City budget included:

- 12 new permanent full time paramedic positions
- 1 new equivalent round the clock ambulance on the road, and
- increase in WFPS overtime budget of \$750,000

I am aware our aging population will increasingly require more health services and that this will impact our emergency services.

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Mr. Eric Glass

The best professional advice that City Council and I have received is to utilize the training and skills of our full fire paramedic service complement of professionals to respond to calls for medical emergencies in order to get trained professionals on-scene providing emergency service as soon as possible.

Thank you for allowing me to share my views with you on this very important subject.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sam Katz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sam Katz